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## Spy Story in Detail

THE U-2 AFFAIR — By David  
Wise and Thomas Ross; Ran-  
dom House; \$4.95; illustrated;  
269 pp.

Reviewed by

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"Francis Gary Powers had never expected to become the most publicized spy of the cold war. He flew the U-2 as a vocation, not as a dedication. But the work took courage, even if the rewards were ample. When his mission failed, many jumped to the conclusion that he was a disloyal American. There was an attempt to make him a scapegoat for all that happened, including the mistakes of the highest officials of the government. When he returned, the government led the effort to banish the unpleasant memory of the U-2 affair from the national conscience by casting him in the role of a hero. The truth is that he was neither. He was an ordinary man sent out on an extraordinary mission." Thus, the authors sum up their detailed, gripping, and factual account of the tale of the U-2; an affair which caused repercussions in pro-Western and in Soviet governmental establishments.

It is an account of confusion in high places; of officials in lower echelons carrying out a program which could, and did, lead to embarrassment for the United States. The authors state, "By May of 1960, Intelligence had come to dominate policy in the U-2 program. Instead of serving as a basis for policy-making, intelligence-gathering had become a self."

"As one of those who made the program put it: 'We felt this would literally be the last flight because of the summit.'"

The authors relate the confusion among governmental officials at Washington when the Soviet government announced it had Powers' U-2; further confusion when the Soviet announced it had Powers. The hasty issuance of the false "cover story" from Washington, which later was exposed when Washington admitted the truth. Excerpts of Powers' testimony in his Soviet trial are related. Powers testified, "... I have been treated very well" and said he was not tortured. He also testified, according to the authors, that he was "profoundly sorry" he had any part in the flight.

The arrangements for Powers' release and return to the United States are covered fully. The United States exchanged Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, "the Soviet master spy then serving a 30-year sentence in a Federal prison," for Powers. Abel never "broke" under interrogation. "he denied everything, would not even admit he was a Soviet citizen. He laughed at one CIA offer of \$10,000 a year to change sides." After Khrushchev had remarked of Abel, "I wish we had three Abels in Moscow."

Abel was returned to the Soviet Union. Powers remains on the CIA payroll at \$2500 a month.

